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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY OF BEAVERTON OFFERS FREE TRAINING FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

***- Training program seeks 20-25 emerging leaders from communities of color in
Beaverton -***

BEAVERTON, Ore.—The City of Beaverton, in partnership with the Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO), will provide a FREE training program to 20-25 emerging leaders from immigrant and refugee communities and communities of color in Beaverton. The program consists of three, eight-hour classes—one per month—on Saturdays in March, April and May 2014. The first class is slated for March 15, with the April and May classes to be determined shortly.

“This is a great opportunity to educate and empower the newest members of our city on how to get involved in their community,” said Mayor Denny Doyle.

The training is a structured, leadership development program built on a popular education model. Popular education draws on the “direct lived” experiences and knowledge of everyone involved, where participants are both learners and teachers.

“CIO is excited to be working with the City of Beaverton,” said CIO Executive Director Kayse Jama. “This program demonstrates Beaverton’s commitment to equity through building leadership among its diverse residents. As a community, we have a shared fate and future, and building human infrastructure ensures that we are collaboratively developing a strong, inclusive, and diverse Beaverton. The city’s investment in Beaverton Organizing and Leadership Development (BOLD) is an investment toward that shared future.”

Training components will include understanding the City of Beaverton's government structure, the political landscape of Beaverton, community organizing, identifying community issues, and community organizing to shift public policy.

Beaverton residents interested in signing up for the program can apply today at interculturalorganizing.org. The application deadline is Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 at 5 pm.

For more information about the training program please contact: Carmen Madrid, Washington County organizing director, at carmen@interculturalorganizing.org or 503-913-6969. Or Holly Thompson, strategic initiatives and communications manager, City of Beaverton, at hthompson@beavertonoregon.gov or 503-526-2658.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

In 2014, Beaverton was again recognized as the **safest city in Oregon** as well as the **safest city** in the entire Pacific Northwest. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was one of just four cities of its size recently recognized as a **"Smarter City" energy leader by the Natural Resources Defense Council** and **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine. In addition, Beaverton was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine, an **All-America City finalist**, as **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com*, **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**, the Beaverton Community Vision program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. Beaverton also enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. For more information, reminders and community news, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov, like the City of Beaverton on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton, or follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton.

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